

U.S. Serial No. 09/462,845

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Date: December 18, 2001By: Carol A. See  
Carol A. SeePATENT  
Docket No. GC382-US

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of )  
David A. Estell ) Group Art Unit: 1652  
Serial No.: 09/462,845 ) Examiner: Yong Pak  
Filed: January 13, 2000 )  
For: Proteases from Gram-Positive )  
Organisms )

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This communication is in response to the Restriction Requirement (Paper No. 8) mailed September 27, 2001 in the above-identified patent application. A Two-Month Extension of Time is being filed concurrently herewith. Therefore, this Response is being filed on or before the current due date of December 27, 2001. Reconsideration of the above-referenced patent application is respectfully requested in light of the following Amendments and Remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS:

~~Please cancel claims 8 and 12-16.~~

Please replace claims 1, 9 and 11 with the clean copy of those claims set out below. A separate sheet is attached showing the changes made to the claims.

*Sub B*  
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1. A gram-positive microorganism having a mutation or deletion of part or all of one or more of the genes encoding SP1, said mutation or deletion resulting in the inactivation of the SP1 proteolytic activity.